

SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT

September 2014

Washington's higher education institutions support the use of the **Common Core State Standards** as a basis for preparing K-12 students for successful participation in higher education and in the economic and civic future of our state.

Public higher education institutions in Washington also support the use of the **Smarter Balanced Assessments** to evaluate student learning, including readiness for entry-level college coursework in mathematics and English language arts.

To that end, the six public baccalaureate institutions and the community and technical college system have agreed to use 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment scores of level 3 or 4 to enroll first-year college students who have been admitted into entry-level college math and English courses without further placement testing.

In addition to the specific terms of the agreement, all of the institutions encourage students with college-ready scores in the 11th grade to take additional rigorous courses in 12th grade, including college-level courses for college credit.

They also encourage students not yet ready for college to continue to take rigorous courses, including the 12th grade transition courses currently being developed and piloted. The community and technical college system and some of the baccalaureate institutions are prepared now to use success in the transition course as evidence of readiness for college coursework, while other institutions will be awaiting outcome data on that work before exempting those students from placement testing.

This agreement is intended to use the Smarter Balanced Assessment as a way to help high school students avoid additional placement testing and prepare for college. However, students who feel this approach does not serve their needs may also choose other methods as defined by local colleges and universities to place into the appropriate level of college course, including traditional placement tests, transcripts, or completing dual-enrollment, college-credit courses in high school. For example, a student who scores at a level 3 or 4 might wish to place into a higher-level of course than established under this agreement. In this case, the student might choose to pursue traditional placement testing.

This agreement is the result of extensive consultation among faculty members and committees within and among Washington's higher education institutions. Although the institutions started with different perspectives on readiness and placement, the agreement is a tribute to their unified commitment to support the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

The agreement applies to the high school graduating classes of 2016 through 2018 and will then be renewed or modified, based on the outcomes for students.

Eastern Washington University
Central Washington University
The Evergreen State College
Washington Community and Technical College System

University of Washington
Washington State University
Western Washington University